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# Northern Ontario

Its Progress and Development

Under the

WHITNEY GOVERNMENT



## THE WHITNEY GOVERNMENT'S ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, FORESTS AND MINES.

The Whitney Government has continued the enlightened and energetic policy that marked its advent to power in dealing with the settlement of lands in the newer parts of the Province and with the interests of the settlers. Its constant endeavor has been to make the position of the settler easier by relaxing regulations that bore hardly upon him and at times made him almost give up in despair.

### What Has Been Done.

For example: It found that Free Grant settlers had to reside upon their lands for five years before they could get their patents. It changed the law, and now the settler can obtain his patent in three years if he has his other duties performed.

The Whitney Government found, under the law as it existed, that the mines and minerals were reserved from the settler and he was obliged to take his land subject to the right of any explorer to go upon it, and if he found minerals to stake out and work, and the settler got nothing except compensation for any damage that might be done to his property. This state of affairs caused much friction and soreness. The Whitney Government changed the law, and now when a settler takes any land he gets all the mines and minerals on or under it. Not only so, but the law was made retroactive, and released to settlers who had already obtained their patents under the old law the mines and minerals on their property.

The Whitney Government has dealt more liberally with the settlers in the matter of the pine timber. Under the amendment to the Free Grant Act of 1880, the Liberal Government reserved the pine timber on all Free Grant lands forever, with the right to the timber licensee to enter upon the lands, cut the timber, make roads, leave the debris, etc., which was an unfair state of things. The Whitney Government endeavored to change that. Wherever it found vested interests had been created under the law it was not able to wipe them out, but it

has provided that such a state of things shall not obtain in future sales or locations. Now where a settler purchases or locates under the new regulations he gets all the timber on the lands if he is a *bona fide* settler, and he may exercise his right to sell timber other than pine when he has a house erected, has been six months in residence, and has *two* acres cleared. And he may sell the pine timber when he has a house erected, has been six months in residence, and has *six* acres cleared. These changes enable the settler to cut and sell his timber while he is clearing up his land and get pecuniary benefit therefrom when he most needs it.

Then there were many lots in the old settled parts in which this pine reservation existed, which lots are not included in a timber license, but owing to the reservation in the patent the settler could not cut the pine. The Whitney Government has provided that where the quantity of pine timber on a lot of this kind is less than 40,000 feet board measure the settler can, by applying to the Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines, get a release of it and deal with it by sale or otherwise as he pleases. Of course he has the right, even where lands are under license, to cut whatever pine he requires for building purposes free of any charge and to sell the pine required to be removed in clearing his lands, paying, if he sells it to the lumbermen or mill owners, only the ordinary dues—no bonus.

Thus under the Whitney Government the mines and minerals and the pine timber on settlers' lands cease to have a string on them and the settler owns them absolutely.

In the Rainy River Free Grant District if a settler desired to purchase land in addition to his Free Grant he had to pay \$1 per acre cash for it. The Whitney Government did not see why settlers in the Rainy River District should have to pay \$1 per acre for their land when settlers in other parts only paid 50c. It has reduced the price of lands in the Rainy River District to 50c. per acre and has put the settlers in that district on an equality with the settlers in the other districts in the Province.

In the Temiskaming region the old Government required settlers taking up land to pay half the price in cash and the balance in two years. The Whitney Government has changed

that, and now the settler need only pay one-quarter of the price at the time of purchase and the balance in three years.

Under the Free Grant Act a settler could not sell or assign his location. Frequently cases of hardship arose in which, through illness or the death of the father, or for other sufficient cause, the settler had to sell his location. The Whitney Government has changed the law, and now a settler can sell or assign his location on obtaining the consent of the Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines. This removes what was often a hardship.

#### Homestead Inspectors.

When the Whitney Government came in disputes between lumbermen and settlers were frequent. On the one hand there was said to be a determined effort on the part of applicants to take up lands on which there was considerable pine or hemlock, which lands were rough and had no value for farming purposes, and were being taken to denude them of their timber. On the other hand the settlers claimed that the timber licensees objected to all applicants without "rhyme or reason." When the Whitney Government took office it found this state of affairs had reached an acute stage and that some clean-cut remedy was necessary. Manifestly it was not proper that settlers should take up rough lots upon which they could not make a living to despoil them of their timber, or lots that were chiefly valuable for their pine timber. The Government thought that two things ought to be done. (1) To provide by regulation that unless a lot had fifty per cent. of arable land it should not be located; neither should it be located if it was chiefly valuable for its pine timber. (2) To provide means of getting an unbiassed and skilful opinion of the character of the soil and timber on lots that were applied for. Accordingly a regulation was passed preventing the location of lots that were not suitable for farming purposes, and officers called Homestead Inspectors were appointed whose duty it was to inspect the lots applied for. In order that there should be no charge of unfairness these Homestead Inspectors were carefully selected and were instructed that before making an inspection they must notify the applicant for the land and the timber licensee of the

date of their inspections so that they might be represented. After this open inspection and upon the report of the Homestead Inspector, the Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines decided whether or not the application should be allowed. The system has given good satisfaction. It possesses the merits of common sense and fairness, and no one has yet been able to suggest a better method.

#### **Cancellation.**

When settlers did not perform their settlement duties their locations were open to cancellation upon applicants filing evidence under oath that nothing or very little had been done. Here there was a prolific field for dispute and even perjury. The Whitney Government decided that where there was any dispute or doubt the better way would be to have an inspection by a Homestead Inspector and they were used for this work, too, and now the Department, by its own officers, has information upon which it can rely and which shuts out the possibility of injustice. These Homestead Inspectors are used for many purposes, but the enforcing of settlement, the seeing that lands are not grabbed for their timber, the prevention of arbitrary objection by lumbermen and the wiping out of so-called settlers who do nothing but despoil lands of the timber, are amongst the principal uses to which they are put.

Formerly, under the Liberal Government, when a lot was located it passed out of license for anything but the pine timber, but if the location was cancelled for the non-performance of settlement duties, automatically the lot went back into license for all timbers and the licensee saw that it was stripped of the last tree. That has been put an end to, and the principle of the Whitney Government with respect to such lots is "out once, out forever," and now the lot stands with its timber for the use of another settler or for reforestation.

Generally the policy of the Liberal Government in dealing with lands of the Crown was to open townships without knowing anything about their timber, mines and minerals, or suitability for settlement. That was not intelligent administration. The Whitney Government has adopted a different policy. Now, before townships are opened, they are inspected by a capable man who reports on their timber, the quality of the soil and minerals,

if present. If the townships are suitable for settlement they are opened and settlers are encouraged to go in. If they are rough, mineral bearing, and have not 50 per cent. of good land they are not opened for settlement. This has put a stop to rough townships being opened in which settlement could not succeed.

There are now open for sale and location 332 townships. Of these 246 are Free Grant, with considerable settlement in them, and 86 are sale townships, a number of them being in what is called the Clay Belt.

In sale townships a settler can obtain 160 acres of first-class land for \$80, one-quarter down and the balance in three years, and when he completes the erection of a house 16 x 20 feet, has resided six months thereon in the year for three years, and has 16 acres cleared, he can get his patent covering the lands, timber and everything else.

#### Clay Belt.

There are yet some drawbacks to settlement in the Clay Belt. These the Government is trying to remove. There is the want of proper facilities for travel and for getting in supplies; there is the need of a market for timber and agricultural products and employment for settlers. So far as facilities for travel are concerned the Transcontinental Railway will soon be running with fares, freight and schedule time fixed. This is in the hands of the Transcontinental Railway Commission, who is promising that the road will be in full operation very shortly.

The Whitney Government has recognized that the creation of large industries, having to do with the use of wood, is one of the principal factors in successfully settling that country. It has therefore endeavored to induce people with capital to go there and make large developments. It has attached to their development conditions, the bringing in of settlers, building houses and clearing a certain amount of land in advance to be paid for at reasonable figures according to arrangement. It has also provided for the giving of employment in the works to be erected and in the taking out of wood, etc. Two such industries are now in operation. The New Ontario Colonization Company undertook the development of the Townships of Haggart and

Kendry. There was no pine timber in these townships and they were fairly good agricultural townships. They were sold to the company at \$1 per acre, cash, subject to creating a large industry, building roads, erecting houses, making clearings for incoming settlers, and they were to bring in a certain number each year. This Company has spent large sums in opening up these townships by the building of roads, the erection of mills, drainage, etc., and they have built a number of houses and cleared a large area of land. In fact, they have created the nucleus of a thriving settlement, and have now in their employment 150 men. They have spent \$118,000 in development, in addition to the \$100,000 they paid for the land. They have not been able to bring in a large number of settlers because of the absence of railway facilities, but as soon as the railway is running regular trains they expect a large influx of people.

Another industry established by the exertions of the Government is the Abitibi Pulp and Paper Company. This Company is erecting a large pulp and paper plant. They, too, are subject to the making of clearings and building of houses for settlers. Their plant is well advanced. They are developing on an enormous scale and will have an investment, when completed, of about three and a half million dollars. Their mills will produce 150 tons of pulp and 200 tons of paper every 24 hours and they will give employment to from 1,500 to 1,800 men. In addition to this active development in their own plant they will give contracts for taking out pulpwood and buy wood from those settlers, and will create a local market for whatever the settlers may have to raise in the way of agricultural products. Such an industry will materially aid in the settlement and prosperity of that country.

Another Company has recently undertaken the erection of a pulp and paper mill on the Metagami River. They contemplate an expenditure of \$1,750,000, with mills producing 200 tons of pulp and paper per day, and employing in their plant at least 250 men, besides which they will give markets for the settlers' wood and what they may raise on their lands.

Tenders are now being called for for another wood industry on the Frederickhouse River. This will be on a smaller scale, employing about 100 hands per day.

When these industries are in full swing and the Transcontinental in regular operation there will be only one thing more necessary for successful settlement. That is good roads, and

these are provided for already out of the vote of the \$5,000,000 obtained by the Whitney Government for the development of New Ontario.

In the process of opening up that northern country many town sites will come into life and the Government thought that where the country was being developed by railways, etc., the public ought to share in the value given by such development, and accordingly passed legislation providing that when a town site is laid out, no matter by whom, every fourth lot in it shall become the property of the Crown. This has been the means of enabling people who desire to obtain lots in town sites at reasonable prices to do so and it prevents these town sites being held for the purpose of speculation.

#### **Woods and Forests.**

The Whitney Government has continued its policy of holding timber sales only as the timber is endangered by fire or some other good reason. Consequently it has had no large sales such as the former Government had. Its sales have been to take care of timber damaged by fire or windstorm and not, as was the case under the Liberal Government, merely to get revenue.

In nearly every instance where sales have been held, bids have been called for at a price per thousand feet, board measure, as the timber is cut, and these bids are in addition to the constant sum of \$2 per thousand feet board measure, dues. By this system the Government gets paid for every thousand feet there is on the limit, and the timber is measured by experienced cullers selected and appointed by the Government. The effect of this system is that the Government is paid for all the timber on the berth and gets a full and fair measurement.

Under the system prevailing under the Liberal Government the timber was sold for a lump bid per mile and lumbermen appointed their own measurers. The stumpage value of timber varies according to distance to haul, quality and distance and difficulty of driving the rivers. Some of the prices obtained recently have been remarkable. Two limits were sold on the Jocko River for which the Department of Lands, Forests and Mines obtained in one case \$13.26 per thousand feet board measure in addition to \$2 dues. In another case the Department received \$12.10 per thousand feet board measure bonus

in addition to \$2 dues. A small limit on the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway brought \$14.40 per thousand feet board measure and \$2 dues, and on McGregor Island in Lake Huron the Department obtained \$15.50 per thousand feet board measure in addition to \$2 dues.

### **Pulp and Paper Mills.**

The Whitney Government early abandoned the Liberal Government's policy of giving away large areas for nothing, and established the system of putting up to public competition pulp areas, but while doing this they did not lessen or relax the conditions of development required. They were equal if not superior to those required when the territory was given away. The wisdom of the Government's course has been seen. Large sums of money have been paid in for the right to obtain territory, pulp and paper mills have been erected, and large developments have taken place. The Spanish River plant has been extended, the Sturgeon Falls mills, which were shut down, have been brought to life, and industry instead of stagnation prevail there. Large pulp mills have been erected at Fort Frances, at Dryden and at Abitibi. New plants are contemplated or under way at Metagami and Kenora. There are great possibilities in the pulp resources of this Province, and the Whitney Government believes that the people should share in the value of those possibilities. If pulp and paper people desire to avail themselves of the privilege of making money out of the property of the people of Ontario, then they should be invited to pay for the privilege rather than be given a present of it.

Large quantities of railway ties are required for the construction and repair of railways. For example, over six million ties were taken off Crown Lands last year. Formerly people were given permits to cut wherever they liked. The Whitney Government has changed that, and except in remote localities on the Transcontinental no permits are issued. The limits are now put up to public competition at a bid per tie in addition to Crown dues of 5c. each.

## Forest Reserves.

Ontario has now in forest reserves and parks an area of 22,548 miles, as follows:—

### *Reserves.*

Temagami . . . . .	6,000 miles.
Mississaga . . . . .	4,800 "
Nepigon . . . . .	7,300 "
Eastern . . . . .	100 "
Sibley . . . . .	70 "

### *Parks.*

Algonquin . . . . .	2,741 miles.
Quetico . . . . .	1,530 "
Roudeau . . . . .	7 "

There is probably nine billion feet of pine on these reserves, including in reserves the Quetico Park, which has just recently been changed from a reserve into a park in order to protect the game. The pine timber on these reserves is worth on an average of \$8 per thousand, which represents an asset of say seventy millions of dollars. By putting this vast quantity of timber into reserves the danger of destruction by fire is almost eliminated, as no settlement or squatting is allowed in these reserves and great precautions are taken by fireranging to prevent the starting or spread of forest fires.

In taking stock of the value of the timber on these reserves it has been usual to confine it to the pine, but there is no doubt that there are enormous quantities of spruce upon some of these reserves which will easily represent another five million of dollars.

Algonquin Park with its large area was all under timber license when the Whitney Government came into power—part of it being under license for all varieties of timber and part for the pine timber only. The Government has endeavored to quiet the titles of the licensees in the Park where it could do so at reasonable values, and it has brought back into the Crown free

from license nearly 600 miles, which will now be carefully protected for the growing of timber.

The Government spent for the protection of these reserves by firerangers last year \$88,000, and no fires of any moment occurred on any of them. One thousand eight hundred miles of valuable timber territory was added during the year to the Mississauga Forest Reserve.

Algonquin Park, in which the game is carefully protected, is beginning to produce a considerable revenue from the furs taken there by the Government rangers. During the last three years upwards of \$15,000 has been realized from sales of furs, and this form of revenue will constantly increase.

#### **Railways.**

There was great danger to the forest from fires during railway construction. The Whitney Government passed legislation requiring the railway companies to put on firerangers when ordered to do so. If they did not, the Government put them on and the railways had to pay all the expense. The Government also placed firerangers along the construction of the railways—two for every ten miles. The railways had to pay one-half the cost and the Government paid the other half. By this system of railway fireranging fires have been prevented and a spirit of care and responsibility has been inculcated in railway employees and contractors which has been of great service.

#### **The Great Work.**

The Province has been for years deriving a great revenue from the timber and lands in its newer parts. The people who live in that region claimed that they should get more assistance from the Government in opening up the country. The whole question was taken up by the Government. The extent of settlement, condition as to roads, etc., were enquired into by the Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines, and the Government came to the conclusion that the time had arrived for a great forward movement in the development of New Ontario.

Sir James Whitney is energetic, far-seeing and courageous and when he makes up his mind that a thing ought to be done it is done! He and his Government have the interests of the back country at heart in a larger degree than any Government that has ever ruled this Province.

Sir James Whitney came down to the House and asked for five million dollars to assist in opening up and developing New Ontario, and the House gave him authority to borrow the money. The method of development was to be—the construction of works of various kinds, the building of roads and bridges, water powers developed, settlement and colonization promoted, transportation to be improved, and agriculture stimulated and assisted.

This was a great programme with splendid opportunities for the exercise of patronage. Following a precedent set by the Dominion Government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier a commission might have been appointed consisting of gentlemen who knew nothing about the practical carrying out of such a work. That is not Sir James' way. What was done was to pick a capable officer from the service of the Department of Lands, Forests and Mines, who was a surveyor and a practical and energetic man. He was given an absolutely free hand in the selection of his staff, foremen and men, and was instructed to act always upon his own responsibility and judgment. All the Department required was that he should get the work done rapidly, efficiently and economically.

Mr. Whitson, O.L.S., the officer selected, has proven a most capable man and no one has had a word of criticism of what he has done. Of course the first matter to be taken up in a development of this kind is the building of roads, and that work was immediately undertaken and has been diligently prosecuted. The work has been carried on practically from the eastern boundary of the Province to the western.

In the first year of the work—1912—233 miles of road were cut out, 210 miles being entirely new road and the balance—23 miles—roads that had been partly cut out and partly improved previously. Of this mileage 50 miles was completed and graded. The work for the season cost \$208,000.

In 1913 the work was attacked more vigorously, with the result that 764 miles of road were constructed or partly constructed, and of the total mileage 500 miles were graded—part of the graded roads being macadamized or re-surfaced, and 270 miles of road were cut out of the virgin forest.

The roads consisted of main trunk lines with lateral branches, the policy being to make the trunk road first-class and permanent. The lateral roads were to let settlers out to the main roads.

During the present year all the roads under construction are

expected to be finished and a few trunk lines put under construction. The benefit of this plan of road-making has been felt all over the back country, not only by giving increased facilities for travel and enabling the settlers to get out to market, etc., but by the employment given and the expenditure incident thereto.

The only criticism of the method of the work by the Opposition is that the specific amounts to be expended on each road or work are not submitted to the House and voted upon. One who did not know what is done would think the Government was trying to hide something, whereas they are proud of the work and ready to justify every cent that has been spent.

Now, what are the facts? The first year nothing could be done until the officer who was put in charge of the work had gone over the ground. He could not tell what roads should be first constructed without inspection. He had to be given a free hand to construct where he thought was necessary. If money had to be voted for each particular work then a whole year must have been lost in order to get the estimates before the House. So he was told to go ahead and when he had made up his mind where a road should be built to go on and build it—and this he did.

In the Session of 1913 his report for 1912 came down to the House. It set out fully what was done and what was spent, and also gave—what do you suppose?—a statement showing the roads it was proposed to open up in each district during 1913, where they were situated, and the amount intended to be expended. The report gave the estimated expenditure for 1913 as \$1,000,000. This was laid on the table of the House.

When the report came down to the House in 1914 showing what had been done in 1913 the expenditure was shown to have been \$1,081,172.28. Adding to this the expenditure of 1912—\$208,446.31—there had been a total expenditure to date out of the five million dollars appropriated of \$1,289,618.59. This report also gave an estimate of what was proposed to be spent in 1914, amounting to \$950,000, which was laid on the table. At the end of this year \$2,239,618.59 will have been spent on roads, leaving over two million dollars of the five million appropriated still available for various developments contemplated by the Act.

The Government is to be congratulated on the great work they undertook in the interests of New Ontario—the usefulness, energy, economy and honesty with which it has been conducted. No Government of Ontario has ever done as much for the back country as the Whitney Government. No better “suspicion smellers” ever existed than the present Opposition, but they have found nothing reflecting in the slightest degree on the management or expenditure of this extensive undertaking.

### STATISTICS SHOWING HOW THE BUSINESS OF THE DEPARTMENT HAS GROWN.

COMPARISON BETWEEN 1904, THE LAST YEAR OF THE ROSS GOVERNMENT, AND 1913, THE NINTH YEAR OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT.

Letters received at the Department in 1904	41,970
Letters received at the Department in 1913	55,452
Out going mail—letters, circulars and reports despatched in 1904. ....	52,110
Out going mail—letters, circulars and reports despatched in 1913.....	65,280
Showing an increase in the volume of correspondence of 26,652.	

#### *Land Branch.*

Persons located in 1904.....	1,098
Persons located in 1913.....	1,575
Acres located in 1904.....	152,699
Acres located in 1913.....	221,255
Purchasers of free grant lands in 1904....	326
Purchasers of free grant lands in 1913....	418
Acres purchased in 1904.....	10,212
Acres purchased in 1913.....	18,017
Lots cancelled in 1904.....	710
Lots cancelled in 1913.....	1,020
Patents issued in 1904.....	1,200
Patents issued in 1913.....	3,535

*Woods and Forests.*

The figures for the Woods and Forests Branch are illuminating as to where the money came from to finance the Province in the late years of the Ross Government.

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The revenue from woods and forests in	
1904 was .....	\$2,650,872
The revenue from woods and forests in	
1913 was .....	2,098,580

but the Ross Government got \$1,664,258 from bonuses, whereas the present Government only got \$614,227, so that the Ross Government got \$1,050,031 more in bonuses, owing to their big timber sale in 1903, than the Whitney Government did.

The Ross Government sold 102,866 acres for..... \$79,634  
 The present Government sold 260,873 acres for..... 262,164

**REFORESTATION.**

The Whitney Government has introduced a definite system of Reforestation to assist in preventing the rapid destruction of the woodlands of the older parts of Ontario.

With a view to the intelligent conservation of timber in the reserves and reforestation, and giving expert advice in localities where it is required, there has been added to the staff of the Department of Lands, Forests and Mines a forester who is a graduate of Yale School of Forestry and also of the Agricultural College at Guelph. His services are available in any locality where advice is required as to tree planting, etc.

An Experimental Forest Station was started in Norfolk County in 1909. This Station contains 1,500 acres of land suitable for demonstrations in forest planting. At this Station experimental plantings of over 300,000 young forest trees have been made, composed largely of White Pine, Red Pine, Scotch Pine, Jack Pine, Black Locust, Red Oak, Chestnut and White Ash.

A Forest Nursery is maintained at the Norfolk Station to supply planting material for demonstrations and experimental plantings in other parts of the Province. This Nursery now contains over 1,000,000 seedlings. From these nurseries nearly two million plants have been sent out for forest plantings, through-

out older Ontario. Demonstration plantings have been carried out in nearly every county in older Ontario. During the spring of 1914, 400,000 plants were sent out free, from the Government Nursery, to provide landowners desiring to experiment in re-foresting waste land. These forest plantations have been made upon various types of land, unsuited for agriculture.

From the Government nurseries collections of forest seedlings are sent out free to public schools maintaining school gardens, in order that the children may become familiar with the growing of young forest trees. Publications are issued and lectures given to emphasize the value of forest preservation.

Legislation has been granted to enable municipalities to acquire and hold land for forestry purposes and to exempt woodlands of private landowners from taxation.

## MINES.

### Improving the Mining Laws.

When the Whitney Government assumed the reins of office in 1905 they found the mining industry had outgrown the mining laws, which were no longer suitable. When a prospector made a discovery on Crown lands he had to send his application to the Department at Toronto, and had to contend with all the difficulties incidental to carrying on business at so long a range.

Further, the rich discoveries of silver at Cobalt had shown the disadvantages of the old system under which the Department decided all disputes; for applicants, witnesses and lawyers in contested cases had to come to Toronto at great trouble and expense. It was clearly necessary to adopt methods better adapted for the expeditious despatch of business. To this end, the new Government overhauled the Mining Act and introduced the following improvements:—

1. The Province was divided into Mining Divisions and a Mining Recorder appointed for each, whose duty should be to receive and record applications for mining lands, thus insuring immediate recognition of a mining claim without reference to Toronto.

2. For the settlement of all disputes a Mining Commissioner was appointed, to whom—and not to the Department—appeals were authorized from the Mining Recorders. If a litigant were

dissatisfied with the Commissioner's award, he had the right to appeal to a Divisional Court, and then to the Court of Appeal.

The change has been of immense benefit to the mining community; contested cases are quickly decided, and all question of political influence being used in favor of one or other of the disputants is entirely eliminated. In practice, appeals from the Commissioner's decisions to the courts of law are very few.

3. Under the old Act a patent or lease was granted subject to the expenditure of a specified sum of money in mining work, the grant being forfeitable on failure to expend the money. The title was, therefore, merely a "qualified" one until the work was done and proof filed with the Department.

The new law reverses the process. It requires 240 days' work to be done on each claim of 40 acres before the patent can issue. Once issued, the title is absolute and is secured against forfeiture.

4. The old Act did not require a discoverer of mineral to put up a notice or post indicating his discovery or making any claim to the land. Loss of time and money was frequently the consequence, for prospectors would often apply for a parcel of land only to find that it had already been taken up.

The Act was amended by obliging the prospector to put up a discovery post on the outcrop of mineral, place stakes at the four corners of his claim, and blaze a line between the posts, thus giving notice to all and sundry that he had made a find and claimed the ground.

Claims were reduced from a maximum area of 320 acres to 40 acres, or in cases of unusually rich ground (special mining divisions), to 20 acres. The price of land was made uniform (\$2.50 per acre in unsurveyed and \$3.00 per acre in surveyed territory), and many other changes were made, all in the direction of de-centralizing the administration of mining lands and facilitating the transaction of business.

#### **Safety Regulations.**

On the operating side of the industry, more and better inspection of mines was provided for. The regulations for safeguarding and protecting the health and lives of mining employees were strengthened and made more drastic, and every-

thing done that legislation could devise for the avoidance of accidents. The latest measure for ameliorating labor conditions was an amendment passed in 1913, by which the eight-hour day was made obligatory for underground workmen after the 1st of January, 1914.

#### Work of Bureau of Mines.

Then, too, the Bureau of Mines was recast; more geologists, engineers, etc., were appointed in order that all possible information might be obtained as to the geology and mineralogy of the Province, for the benefit of prospectors, capitalists and others interested. The labors of the Bureau have been of great and direct benefit to the mining industry, and the maps and reports which have been issued, and the investigations and researches which have been made, have proven of much practical worth. Testimony to this effect has been borne by many persons competent to judge, both inside and outside of the Province.

The nickel fields of Sudbury, the silver deposits of Cobalt, South Lorrain and Gowganda, the gold fields of Porcupine, Larder Lake and Kirkland Lake, the iron regions of Michipicoten, the corundum deposits of Eastern Ontario, and many other mineral districts have been examined, reported on and mapped by the Bureau of Mines, to the advantage not only of prospectors, but of everyone interested in the mining industry. Within the last few weeks, chromium, platinum, and even diamonds have been detected through the skill of the Provincial Geologist. Even though the diamonds are microscopic in size, their presence and that of the other metals just mentioned is indicative of the great possibilities of Northern Ontario in the way of mineral resources.

The latest action for the stimulation of discovery was the offering by the Legislature of a reward of \$25,000 for the finding of radium in commercial quantity in Ontario. Cures of cancer wrought by this substance have been so remarkable that the Government deemed it their duty to endeavor to bring to light any supply of it which may exist in Ontario, so that the very scanty stock which the world has so far yielded—not perhaps exceeding one ounce in weight—might be supplemented,

and the benefits of radium placed within the reach of Ontario sufferers from this terrible disease.

#### **Mining Revenue.**

In carrying on the affairs of the Province the Government naturally requires revenue. It is contended that Providence in placing rich deposits of mineral in the ground does so not only for the good of private individuals, but also for that of the people at large, and that in consequence, a reasonable share of the money realized from working them should go into the public treasury.

In acting upon this principle, the Whitney Government has proceeded upon lines recognized as not only just, but fair and reasonable. By the Mining Tax Act a mining company or firm realizing more than \$10,000 per annum of net profit, pays a tax of three per cent. on the excess. Thus a company whose profits, after providing for all outlays and expenses, amounted in any one year to \$100,000, would pay into the Government's hands to assist in defraying the public expenditures, the sum of \$3,000. If the company realized no profits, or less than \$10,000, it would pay nothing. The contributions by the mines to the Provincial Treasury are based solely upon their net gain. No fairer principle could have been adopted, and no taxing act has ever worked more smoothly. To their credit be it said, the mining companies have shown every desire to be reasonable.

In order that the localities in which the mines are situated may have funds for improving their roads, sewerage and water systems, building schools, etc., the law provides that they shall receive one-third of all the revenue from mining taxation, an exception being made of the town of Cobalt, whose rocky site and the consequent costliness of public improvements made out a case for one-half the tax. The splendid roads of Coleman township and the wonders that have been wrought in the stony hillsides of Cobalt townsite bear unmistakable evidence of the benefits the Mining Tax Act has conferred upon local municipalities.

The same law imposes a tax of two cents per acre on mining lands in unorganized territory, this displacing the old Algoma Land Tax of one cent per acre; also a tax on natural gas of two cents per thousand cubic feet, a rebate being granted of 90 per

cent. of the tax when the gas is used in Canada. This gas tax has had two results:—

- (1) To bring to an end the export of natural gas to the United States.
- (2) To almost entirely stop the waste of gas, which was common before the Act was passed.

#### **Business-like Administration.**

In addition to the revenues provided by the Mining Tax Act, the Whitney Government have obtained a further share for the public of the great wealth of Ontario's mineral fields, particularly those of the Cobalt silver camp, by disposing of unlocated parcels, chiefly lands under water, to the highest bidder. The bed of Cobalt Lake was sold for \$1,085,000, and Kerr Lake for \$178,500, and ten per cent. royalty on the output. There were also some rich properties obtained by methods which were called in question, and the titles of which the Government felt it their duty to endeavor to set aside through the courts. These actions were compromised, and the parties allowed to remain in possession on undertaking to pay specified royalties on the proceeds of the mines.

Under the above headings the Government has received during the years 1907-1913 in mining royalties, \$1,747,364; from the Mining Tax Act, \$972,862, and from special sales of mining land, \$1,263,500, or in all, \$3,983,726. Not one cent from such sources ever came into the Ross Government's coffers. This large sum was derived, as it may be said, entirely from the bounty of Nature, and its collection has in no way harassed the mining industry or impeded its progress, as is shown by the remarkable increase in the annual production of minerals during the last few years. For instance, in 1904, the last year of the old Government, the total production had a value of \$11,572,647, while in 1913 it had risen to \$53,208,311.

### A Striking Contrast.

The following figures show the total receipts from mining sources during the nine years of the Whitney Government:—

1905 .....	\$65,073
1906 .....	250,120
1907 .....	1,730,078
1908 .....	537,530
1909 .....	977,157
1910 .....	940,140
1911 .....	798,920
1912 .....	633,778
1913 .....	621,484

Total .....	\$6,554,280
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An average of .....	\$728,253
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The contrast between the above table and the following, which is for the last nine years of the old Government, is sufficiently remarkable:—

1896 .....	\$66,842
1897 .....	239,867
1898 .....	86,666
1899 .....	172,170
1900 .....	110,448
1901 .....	87,057
1902 .....	87,992
1903 .....	66,046
1904 .....	46,084

Total .....	\$963,172
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An average of .....	\$107,019
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### Encouragement of Refining.

The extent to which the raw materials of any industry are worked up into the finished article in the country of origin is a measure of the progress made by that industry. The silver from the Cobalt mines is now largely marketed as merchantable bars,

produced at Cobalt and in the refineries situated elsewhere in Ontario. The nickel and copper of Sudbury are not yet, it is true, produced in a refined condition in the Province, yet the Bessemer mattes now exported for refinement contain 80 per cent. of metals as compared with less than 30 per cent. of metals in the low grade mattes which the furnaces formerly produced. To accelerate the tendency towards the home refining of nickel and other metals, the Whitney Government introduced and had the Legislature pass The Metal Refining Bounty Act, granting a bounty of six cents per pound on nickel or cobalt refined in Ontario, or on the metallic contents of refined nickel and cobalt oxide. A bounty is also offered of one and one-half cents per pound on refined copper, and one-half cent per pound on arsenic refined from mispickel ore. The encouragement thus offered has enabled refiners of cobalt oxide from the silver-cobalt ores of Ontario to dominate the world's markets for this material. Formerly the chief source of supply was New Caledonia, a French island in the South Pacific ocean; but the New Caledonia cobalt mines have given way to those of Ontario.

#### **Water Powers.**

The water powers of northern Ontario have begun to play an important part in the development of the country, and are destined to play a still more important part. The mining industry in particular is largely benefitted by the cheap power derivable from water falls. Wood is first used for fuel; this gives way to coal, and finally coal to water power, at one-half or one-third the cost. These powers can no longer be purchased outright, but may be leased from the Crown on conditions requiring immediate development, and on payment of a moderate rental. Thus the Government obtains a fair revenue, and at the same time presents the mining industry with power not hampered with a heavy initial charge such as would be imposed on purchase from private individuals. Practically all of the mining camps of northern Ontario are now operated by electric power generated from near-by falls. Other industries springing into existence are also favored by this cheap power, particularly flouring mills, pulp and paper plants, and wood-working establishments, for which latter industries the northern parts of the Province are particularly adapted.

# **MONEY WELL SPENT.**

## **COMPARISON OF EXPENDITURES IN NORTHERN ONTARIO, ON AGRICULTURE, ROADS, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC WORKS.**

### *Agriculture.*

1901-1904.....	\$36,533 82
1910-1913.....	159,714 01
Increase.....	<hr/> \$123,180 19

### *Education.*

1901-1904.....	\$281,919 63
1910-1913.....	790,818 55
Increase.....	<hr/> \$508,893 92

### *Special Grants for Technical Education.*

1901-1904.....	nothing
1910-1913.....	\$40,894 00

### *Colonization Roads.*

1901-1904.....	\$ 557,547 63
1910-1913.....	1,548,156 68
Increase.....	<hr/> \$990,609 05

### *Special Road Work Under Northern Development Branch.*

1901-1904.....	nothing
1910-1913.....	\$1,272,101 86

### *Public Works.*

1901-1904.....	\$215,922 21
1910-1913.....	639,930 69
Increase.....	<hr/> \$424,008 48

